

Amend Section 364  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)  
Re: Elk

- The original proposal was modified to include a recommendation to rename “Junior” hunts to “Apprentice” hunts in an effort to better distinguish between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota’s, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. All of these factors assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter. For consistency with other big game regulations (pronghorn antelope), language is added to 1) clarify that only persons possessing valid junior hunting licenses may apply for apprentice hunt tags, and 2) require junior hunters to have a licensed, nonhunting chaperon while hunting with an apprentice hunt tag.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting those Considerations:

## VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:

California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95811

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

1. Definition of bull and antlerless elk

No alternatives were identified. The new regulations modify the definitions so they are easily applied under field condition.

2. Reference to Simpson Timber Company for the Big Lagoon and Northwestern Roosevelt elk hunts.

No alternatives were identified. The new wording replaces references to Simpson Timber Company with California Redwood Company to accurately reflect the change in the company name.

3. Apprentice hunts.

No alternatives were identified. The new regulation better distinguishes between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quotas, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. For consistency with other big game regulations (pronghorn antelope), language is added to 1) clarify that only persons possessing valid junior hunting licenses may apply for apprentice tags, and 2) require junior hunters to have a licensed, nonhunting chaperon while hunting with an apprentice tag.

4. Editorial changes to the La Panza hunt.

No alternatives were identified. New wording improves clarity, consistency and reduces redundancy.

5. Number of Tags

No alternatives were identified. Elk license tag quotas must be changed periodically in response to a variety of environmental and biological conditions.

6. Editorial Changes

No alternatives were identified. Minor editorial changes are necessary to improve clarity and consistency in regulation.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Definition of bull and antlerless elk

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and understandable regulations under field conditions.

2. Reference to Simpson Timber Company for the Big Lagoon and Northwestern Roosevelt elk hunts.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in regulations that reflect the current name of the company.

3. Apprentice hunts.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate description of hunting opportunities available to junior hunters.

4. Editorial changes to the La Panza hunt.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate regulations.

5. Number of Tags

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected. Periodic adjustment in tag numbers is necessary to attain project objectives of optimizing hunting opportunities while maintaining elk populations at desired levels, consistent with biological/environmental conditions. Management plans specify desired sex and age ratios which are attained or maintained in part by periodically modifying tag quotas.

6. Editorial Changes

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate regulations.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective, and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the regulatory action have been assessed, and the following determinations regarding the required statutory categories have been made.

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action modifies the definition of bull and antlerless elk, changes reference to Simpson Timber Company to Redwood Timber Company, changes junior hunts to apprentice hunts and adds language to clarify who can obtain an apprentice tag and chaperon requirements, clarifies language in the La Panza hunt zone, adjusts tag quotas

for existing hunts, and adds minor editorial changes. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, the proposal is economically neutral to business.

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

None

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None

- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None

- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None

- (h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None

Updated Informative Digest  
(Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations establish season dates for the Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk hunts. The proposed regulations for Fort Hunter Liggett do not change the number of days. These regulations slightly modify the season dates for period 1 antlerless hunt (including hunter training) and the archery antlerless hunt from the first to the second Thursday in October; the period 2 antlerless hunt from the third to the fourth Wednesday in November; the period 3 bull hunt (including hunter training) from the fourth Thursday to the fourth Saturday in December; the archery either-sex hunt from the first Saturday in September to the last Saturday in August.

Existing regulations define bull and antlerless elk. The proposed regulations modify these definitions because under field conditions it is very difficult to identify antlers above the hairline but less than four inches and there have been several incidents where antlerless elk hunters have inadvertently harvested a bull (by definition) with antlers less than four inches.

Existing regulations for the Big Lagoon and Northwestern Roosevelt elk hunt reference Simpson Timber Company under area description. The proposed regulation replaces Simpson Timber Company with California Redwood Company to reflect the current organizational structure of the Company.

Existing regulations for the La Panza elk hunt defines the hunt boundary. The proposed regulation makes minor changes to improve clarity.

Existing regulations specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt. It is necessary to adjust quotas periodically in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions and to provide additional hunting opportunity, where warranted. The original proposal provided a series of tag ranges for the Commission to select and adopt.

The original proposal changed the number of license tags for the hunts to a series of ranges. The proposal is further modified to provide the final tag quota's based on updated harvest and population analysis contained in the "Data Supplement To The California Fish and Game Commission, Regarding: Recommended 2008 Elk Tag Allocations (Updated 2007 Elk Harvest and Population Estimates)". The number of tags proposed is intended to provide an appropriate level of elk hunting opportunity and harvest while achieving or maintaining management and population objectives. These final values for the license tag numbers are based upon findings from annual harvest and population surveys.

**The original proposal was modified to include a recommendation to rename "Junior" hunts to "Apprentice" hunts in an effort to better distinguish between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota's, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. All of these factors assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter. For consistency with other big game regulations (pronghorn antelope), language is added to 1) clarify that only persons possessing valid junior hunting licenses may apply for apprentice hunt tags, and 2) require junior hunters to have a licensed, nonhunting chaperon while hunting with an apprentice hunt tag.**

No other modifications to the original proposal were made. Pursuant to its May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the above referenced changes and final tag quotas as proposed.

## 2008 Final Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
<b>Roosevelt Elk</b>									
Siskiyou	15	15							
Del Norte	10		5						
Marble Mountains		40							
Marble Mtns Apprentice		2							
Klamath	10		10						
Big Lagoon		10							
Northwestern California		20							
<b>Rocky Mountain Elk</b>									
Northeastern		10					9		
Northeastern Apprentice		2							
<b>Tule Elk</b>									
Cache Creek	2		2						
Cache Creek Apprentice			1						
<b>La Panza</b>									
Period 1	6		5						
Period 1 Apprentice			1						
Period 2	6		6						
<b>Owens Valley</b>									
Owens Valley (Region Wide)							5		
<b>Bishop</b>									
Period 1 Muzzleloader					1	4			
Period 2 Apprentice	4								
Period 3	4		1						
Period 4	4								
Period 5	4								
<b>Independence</b>									
Period 1									1
<b>Lone Pine</b>									
Period 1 Muzzleloader					1	1			
Period 2	2		2						
Period 3	2								
Period 4	2		1						
Period 5	2								
<b>Tinemaha &amp; W. Tinemaha</b>									

## 2008 Final Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Period 1								6	1
Period 2	9								
Period 3	9		2						
Period 4	9								
Period 5	9		2						
<b>Grizzly Island</b>									
Period 1	3								
Period 1 <b>Apprentice</b>				1					
Period 2	2		2						
<b>Fort Hunter Liggett</b>									
Archery Only							3	5	
Period 1	7								
Period 1 <b>Apprentice</b>	2								
Period 2	8								
Period 2 <b>Apprentice</b>			1						
Period 3			7						
<b>East Park Reservoir</b>									
Period 1			2						
Period 3	5								
<b>San Luis Reservoir</b>		3							

